Availability of free yarn for consumption in Handlooms

*35. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of free yarn available for consumption for handlooms in hank form and for powerlooms in cone form and beam form during the period from 1st July, 1986 to 1st July, 1987 and the stock of such free yarn in hank and one form as on 1st July, 1987;

(b) what is the stock of cloth with the Handloom Marketing Cooperatives and the decentralised powerloom sector as on 1st July, 1987; and

(c) whether off-take of cloth in organised handloom sector and decentralised textile sector is sluggish due to market conditions and if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the off-take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House, (See below)

(b) According to available information, stocks valued at approximately Rs. 303 crores being held by handloom marketing agencies in 9 States as on 30-6-87. The details of stock of cloth with the decentralised powerloom sector are not available.

(c) Yes, Sir. The off-take of cloth in the co-operatives and corporations in the handloom sector is sluggish at present. Government are organising exhibitions and sales programmes and also providing occasional rebates on the sale of handloom cloth.

Statement

The details of the estimated production of free yarn available for consumption for handlooms in hank form and for powerlooms in cone form and beam form during the period 1st July, 1987 are as follows:

Type of packing	Spun yarn availability (in million kgs.)			
	Cotton	Blended	100% non-cotton	Total
Handlooms				
Hanks	346.59	5.32	51 13	403 04
Powerlooms				
Waving cones	461.33	66.09	23.66	551 08
Beams	28.69	02.11	NEG	30 80
Pirns	00.93	NEG	NEG	00.93
Total	837.54	73.52	74.79	985.85

Information regarding stocks of free yarn in hank and cone forms as on 1st July, 1987 is not available.

Relief supplies to Jaffna Tamils

*36. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of relief supplies being given by the Government of India and the Red Cross Society to the Sri Lanka Tamils in Jaffna region;

(b) whether any monitoring is being done by the Government of India to ensure proper and regular supply of goods to the affected people;

(c) what is Sri Lanka Government's present stand on resolving the ethnic issue; and

(d) what further steps Government are taking to help resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) After the Agreement between the Government of India and Sri Lanka on June 15 concerning modalities for despatch of relief supplies, four shipments of supplies have reached Jaffna. The supplies consist of essential food items, kerosene and medicines. About 3000 tonnes of supplies have been sent so far.

(b) Yes, Sir. 6 members of the Indian Red Cross and representatives of the Indian Commission in Sri Lanka have been associated with the distribution. Government is satisfied that the supplies are reaching the affected people.

(c) and (d) We are continuing discussions with the Government of Sri-Lanka and other affected parties to find a political solution to the ethnic problem.

Bank Credit to Textile Industry

*37. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of bank credit made available to textile industry during the years 1985, 1986 and so far in 1987; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to regenerate the textile industry by providing greater credit for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Government introduced the Soft Loan Scheme in 1976 and in August, 1986 the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme for the modernisation of the textile industry. The World Bank and Japan have also offered assistance for the modernisation/rehabilitation of the Indian textile industry.

Pak-Chinese Defence Links

*38. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report in the Hindustan Times dated the 15th July, 1987, captioned "Stronger Pak-Chinese defence links";

(b) if so, what is Government's information about the steps being taken by Pakistan and China to expand the friendship and cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.